

PAIUCC Meeting

Keystone Exams

September 17, 2010

Pennsylvania Department of Education

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Keystone Exams Overview

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Literature, English Composition, Biology, Chemistry, U.S. History, World History, and Civics and Government.

- One component of Pennsylvania's high school graduation requirements beginning for the graduating class of 2014-2015
- Taken as an end-of-course exam near the end of course completion that counts for at least one-third of the final course grade
 - PDE recommends administering the English Composition Keystone Exam at the end of English 9 and Literature at the end of English 10
- Available to students either online or paper-pencil
- Comprised of two (2) modules
- Multiple-Choice (MC) and Constructed-Response (CR) items

Keystone Exams Fall 2010

- Field test of Algebra I, Biology, and Literature
- Available to mostly students in high school, but may include middle school students
- Online and/or paper-pencil assessment comprised of two modules
- Multiple-Choice (MC) and Constructed-Response (CR) items
- Approximately 2-2 ½ hours for each exam, 1-1 ¼ hours per module
- Student should be assigned to an assessment based on course enrollment in the 2009-2010 school year
- Field test results will be provided for participating districts

Keystone Exams Spring 2011

- First operational administrations of Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature
- Field test administrations of Algebra 2, Geometry, and English Composition
- Testing window will be beginning of May 2011 (exact dates not yet finalized)
- Students nearing completion of a course are eligible to take the course-specific Keystone Exam

Keystone Exams Spring 2011

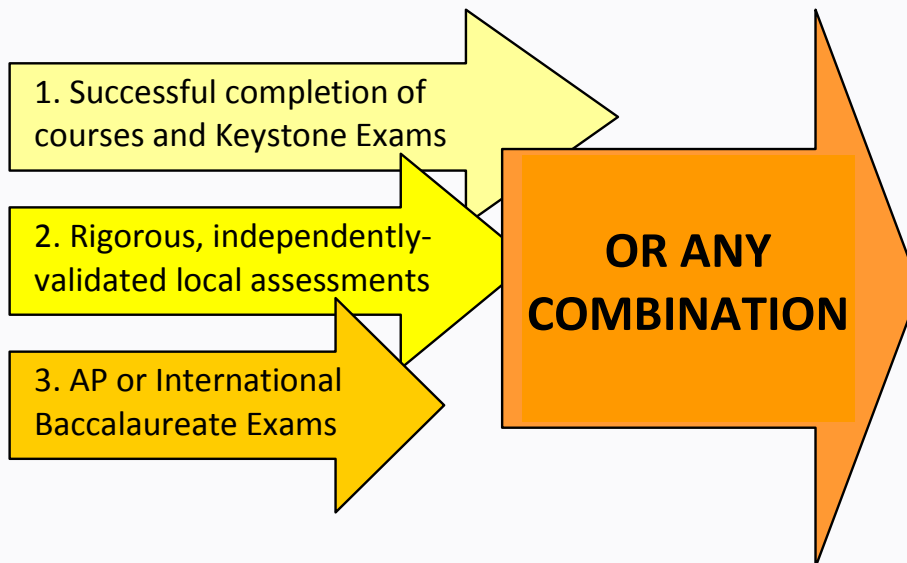
- Online and paper-pencil formats available
- Paper/pencil testing materials will arrive in two shipments
 1. Administrative materials arrive four weeks prior to the window
 2. Secure materials arrive two weeks prior to the window
- Paper-pencil testing materials are returned after each subject is complete
- Preliminary results provided around the end of May
- Final results (with performance levels) provided later in summer (Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature only)

Keystone Exams Key Dates

Field Test and Operational Assessments		
	Field Test	Operational
Algebra I, Biology, Literature	November 1-19, 2010	May 2011
Algebra II, Geometry, English Composition	May 2011	Winter 2011
US History	Fall 2012	May 2013
Chemistry, Civics & Govt., World History	May 2015	TBD

Graduation Policy

Under the new regulation and beginning with the class of 2015, students can meet graduation requirements through any of the following options determined by the district:



Graduation Policy 2 Phases

Students in the graduating classes of 2015 and 2016 must demonstrate proficiency in:

1. English Composition
2. Literature
3. Algebra I, and
4. Biology

Phase 2- Class of 2017 and beyond

Students must demonstrate proficiency in six of ten content areas:

- Both English Composition and Literature;
- Two of three Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry);
- One of two Sciences (Biology or Chemistry); and
- One of three Social Studies (American History, Civics and Government or World History).

Chapter 4 Advisory Committees

Three advisory committees are specified in the regulation:

- ❖ Performance Level Advisory Committee
- ❖ Local Assessment Advisory Committee
- ❖ State Assessment Advisory Committee

District Choice

- Keystone Exams will count for at least 1/3 of the final course grade; or NEW:
- **Keystones used as a local assessment and students must score proficient or advanced.**
- Locally designed and independently validated assessments

District Choice

Pass Rigorous National Assessments

- National assessments are the Advanced Placement (AP) Exams and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams
- PDE will release policy guidance regarding the minimum score on each that is needed to satisfy graduation requirements

Project Based Alternative

- A student who does not score “proficient” on a Keystone Exam after two attempts will be eligible to complete a project-based assessment

Project–Based Assessment

Projects will be:

- aligned with the Keystone Exam modules
- developed by the department
- administered by school staff
- scored by regional panels of educators
- developed so that points will be added to a student's highest Keystone score if his/her performance is judged “satisfactory.”

Eligibility for Projects

Students will qualify for projects if he/she:

1. has taken the course.
2. was unsuccessful after two attempts with the Keystone exam.
3. has met the district's attendance requirements for the course.
4. has participated in supplemental instructional services.

Contact Information

Richard Maraschiello

c-rmarasch@state.pa.us

Phone: 717-525-5746

DRC Pennsylvania Customer Service Team

Phone: 1-888-551-6935

Fax: 763-268-2567

PAcustomerservice@datarecognitioncorp.com